

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

Claim 16 was not examined because it does not comply with rule 6.2 a PCT.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-6136776

2. The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1 and shows (the references in parentheses applying to this document): a water-soluble package comprising 55 wt-% to 75 wt-% of a quaternary ammonium compound having germicidal properties, a nonionic surfactant an organic solvent and less than 10 % water (see claim 1, example 15).

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known **D1** in a significantly lower amount of cationic surfactant. Thus the subject-matter of claim 1 is novel (Article 33 (2) PCT).

3. The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as to provide an alternative water-soluble package comprising a disinfectant concentrate.

This is achieved by the subject-matter of present claim 1.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons: The cited prior art does not lead a skilled artisan to apply lower amounts of cationic surfactants in water-soluble packages in order to solve the problem as put forward in the underlying application.

Claims 2-15 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

The same applies for independent claims 17 and 18.

4. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document D1 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein.

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Claims:

1. A water soluble container containing a composition comprising:
 - (a) 0.01 to 20%wt. of at least one cationic surfactant having germicidal properties;
 - 5 (b) at least one non-ionic surfactant;
 - (c) at least one organic solvent having a solubility in water of at least 4%wt.;
 - (d) optionally, at least one alkanolamine;
 - (e) optionally, at least one polyethylene glycol; and
 - (f) optionally, up to about 10% wt. of one or more conventional additives selected
- 10 from coloring agents, fragrances and fragrance solubilizers, viscosity modifying agents, other surfactants, other antimicrobial/germicidal agents, pH adjusting agents and pH buffers including organic and inorganic salts, optical brighteners, opacifying agents, hydrotropes, antifoaming agents, enzymes, anti-spotting agents, anti-oxidants, preservatives, and anti-corrosion agents;
- 15 wherein said composition contains no more than 20%wt. water.
2. The container according to claim 1 which comprises a thermoformed or injection molded water soluble polymer.
3. The container according to claim 2 wherein the water soluble polymer is poly(vinyl alcohol).
- 20 4. The container according to claim 1 wherein the concentrate composition necessarily comprises (d) at least one alkanolamine.
5. The container according to claim 1 wherein the concentrate composition necessarily comprises (e) at least one polyethylene glycol.
6. The container according to claim 1 wherein the concentrate composition
- 25 necessarily comprises both (d) at least one alkanolamine and (e) at least one polyethylene glycol.
7. The container according to claim 1 wherein (b) at least one non-ionic surfactant is present in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 40 percent by weight.
8. The container according to claim 1 wherein (c) at least one organic solvent is
- 30 present in an amount of from about 5 to about 97 percent by weight.

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9. The container according to claim 4 wherein the (d) at least one alkanolamine is present in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 15 percent by weight.
10. The container according to claim 6 wherein the (d) at least one alkanolamine is present in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 15 percent by weight.
- 5 11. The container according to claim 5 wherein the (e) at least one polyethylene glycol is present in an amount of from about 2 to about 75 percent by weight.
12. The container according to claim 6 wherein the (e) at least one polyethylene glycol is present in an amount of from about 2 to about 75 percent by weight.
- 10 13. The container according to claim 1 wherein the concentrate composition contains no more than 15%wt. water.
14. The container according to claim 1 wherein the concentrate composition contains no more than 3%wt. water.
15. The container according to claim 1 wherein the concentrate composition contains no more than 1%wt. water.
- 15 16. The water soluble containers of the present invention substantially as described with reference to the Examples.
17. A method of preparing a dilute treatment composition comprising placing a water soluble container containing a composition comprising:
- 20 (a) 0.01 to 20%wt. of at least one cationic surfactant having germicidal properties;
- (b) at least one non-ionic surfactant;
- (c) at least one organic solvent having a solubility in water of at least 4%wt.;
- (d) optionally, at least one alkanolamine;
- (e) optionally, at least one polyethylene glycol; and
- 25 (f) optionally, up to about 10% wt. of one or more conventional additives selected from coloring agents, fragrances and fragrance solubilizers, viscosity modifying agents, other surfactants, other antimicrobial/germicidal agents, pH adjusting agents and pH buffers including organic and inorganic salts, optical brighteners, opacifying agents, hydrotropes, antifoaming agents, enzymes, anti-spotting agents, anti-oxidants,
- 30 preservatives, and anti-corrosion agents;

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wherein said composition contains no more than 20%wt. water into an amount of water within a container, and allowing the container to dissolve.

18. A process for treating a hard surface wherein the presence of undesired
5 microorganisms e.g. gram positive pathogenic bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus*,
and/or gram negative pathogenic bacteria such as *Salmonella choleraesuis* and/or
Pseudomonas aeruginosa, are suspected, comprising the process steps of:

placing a water soluble container containing a composition comprising:

- 10 (a) 0.01 to 20%wt. of at least one cationic surfactant having germicidal properties;
(b) at least one non-ionic surfactant;
(c) at least one organic solvent having a solubility in water of at least 4%wt.;
(d) optionally, at least one alkanolamine;
(e) optionally, at least one polyethylene glycol; and
15 (f) optionally, up to about 10% wt. of one or more conventional additives selected
from coloring agents, fragrances and fragrance solubilizers, viscosity modifying agents,
other surfactants, other antimicrobial/germicidal agents, pH adjusting agents and pH
buffers including organic and inorganic salts, optical brighteners, opacifying agents,
hydrotropes, antifoaming agents, enzymes, anti-spotting agents, anti-oxidants,
preservatives, and anti-corrosion agents;

20 wherein said composition contains no more than 20%wt. water into a quantity of
water,

allowing the water soluble container to dissolve in the water to form a dilute
treatment composition;

25 and, applying an effective amount of the diluted treatment composition to the
surface in need of treatment in order to provide sanitizing or disinfecting effect thereto.

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